

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

APRIL 5, 2012

Budget Proposals, Speed Cameras, Police Vehicles Challenge Council

by Diane Oberg

An ambitious agenda on March 26 had city council and staff fading fast by the time the 4-hour marathon meeting drew to a close. In between, council heard from citizens regarding whether to contract for speed cameras near city schools, heard debate over the merits of hybrid vehicles relative to their higher costs and heard the city manager's budget proposal (see separate story).

The meeting began with the mayor's proclamation marking the International Year of Cooperatives, which she presented to representatives of the city's seven cooperatives: Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative, Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI), Greenbelt Nursery School, the New Deal Café, Rappidan Camps and the Greenbelt News Review.

Speed Cameras

A public hearing on the proposed implementation of speed cameras in designated school zones followed the budget pre-

sentation. The public hearing was required by the state law, which also limits the use of speed cameras to school zones and construction zones and prohibits issuing tickets to motorists going 12 miles or less over the speed limit. The fine for violations is \$40 and the offense is not held against the owner's driving record.

The Greenbelt police had identified a preferred vendor. In accordance with what Captain Dan O'Neil said is standard practice across the country, the vendor would receive 40 percent of the ticket amount (\$16) with the city receiving \$24. City Manager Michael McLaughlin's proposed budget estimates that speed camera tickets would result in \$500,000 in additional revenue in the first year. This estimate, he said, is based upon the experience of other communities. However, the initial surge in tickets is temporary, as motorists soon learn to slow down.

Some speakers at the pub-

lic hearing, including Richard Moss, Bill Jones and Matt Berres (speaking as a citizen, not for GHI) plus Chandra Smith via email, voiced firm support for the program. Moss said he would like the city to install as many cameras as possible with a high fine. Berres questioned the \$500,000 estimated revenue, which implies the issuance of 12,500 tickets.

Others were opposed. Bill Orleans opened by stating his opposition both to the cameras and to people speeding in school zones. He supported more officer enforcement of speed in school zones. He and other speakers decried the limits on the fine and the amount of permissible speeding set by the state.

Another speaker opposed the cameras both for their Big Brother aspect as well as her concern that motorists would be so focused on their speedometers, rather than the road, that they

See COUNCIL, page 7

Council Budget Overview Begins Study of City's New Fiscal Year

by Thomas X. White

At its worksession on March 28 council began its review of the city manager's proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Budget that was then formally presented at the regular meeting on March 29. Traditionally the first budget worksession provides a general overview of the budget, projected revenues and the General Government section. The latter cover City Council, Administration, Elections, Finance and Administrative Services.

Other sections include Information Technology, Legal Counsel, Public Information and Community Promotion. A further section is more personal – Public Officers Associations (including participation by members of council, staff and advisory board members in regional, state and national associations).

The review allows council an opportunity to review the budget introduction, a nine-page document including a general overview and highlights regarding expected revenue and expenditures, city goals, capital projects and a long-term fiscal outlook for the city.

Having received the entire document a week earlier, council was ready to critique the introduction and go over the General Government section. City Manager Michael McLaughlin briefly updated council on the revenue

side of the budget, assisted by City Treasurer Jeff Williams and Dale Worley, director of Information Technology.

Budget Introduction

Mayor Judith Davis highlighted portions of the manager's overview statement:

"This financial plan (also) responds to what has been the key budget issue for the city since Fiscal Year 2010 – to provide quality city services to the residents and be responsive to community opportunities and needs, while dealing with the impacts of a very difficult economic climate. While Greenbelt has been negatively affected, the impacts have been managed. "Council and staff have worked hard to reduce costs and find savings in order to produce balanced budgets with minimal programmatic cuts and no layoffs or (staff) furloughs." The proposed FY2013 budget is evidence of that. At \$25,010,500, the new budget is lower than the actual expenditures of the Fiscal Year 2010.

"With all real property in Greenbelt being reassessed (by the state) in 2012 and the real estate market at or near its lowest point in years, the city will not see increases similar to those of previous years," the document reads. "Thus the likely scenario is for no increase and even the possibility of a decline in

assessed values over the next four years – FY2013 through FY2016." The introduction stresses fiscal restraints and difficult choices in the coming years."

Public Works

One of council's first questions dealt with the lingering cost overrun (approximately \$800,000) associated with reconstruction of the Public Works facility. McLaughlin noted the budget contained \$50,000 for an FY2013 contribution to begin paying off the debt.

He said he would like to have a discussion with council following adoption of the budget to consider a decision to use portions of the fund balance to address the Public Works project deficit.

Another urgent question related to the hit the city has been taking with real property assessment abatements. Such abatements have increased in recent years when property owners have successfully challenged real estate assessments administered by the county and state. Williams said one of the reasons for the success rate for abatements is the reductions in staff reviewers at the State Board of Assessments and the lack of resources to contest them.

Davis also noted the Manager's

See BUDGET, page 13

75th Anniversary

Housing Types in Greenbelt: Beyond the New Deal Legacy

by Isabelle Gournay and Mary Corbin Sies

At 75, Greenbelt's original townhouses and garden apartments have withstood the test of time. Expanding from its crescent-shaped nucleus, the city's residential landscape offers a wide array of desirable housing options, with greater planning and landscape amenities than is standard for contemporary suburban residential development.

On April 17 Greenbelt residents and University of Maryland professors Isabelle Gournay and Mary Corbin Sies present a lecture on the expansion of Greenbelt's New Deal legacy with special emphasis on Greenbelt's housing patterns. The presentation, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum, provides a preamble to the more full discussion of Greenbelt's legacy that will take place at the 75th Anniversary Symposium of April 27-28. Professors Gournay and Sies will share research they published in Housing Washington: Two Centuries of Residential Development in the National Capital Area (Uni-

versity of Virginia Press, 2010). The FOGL lecture is at 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Greenbelt Community Center.

Greenbelt's original houses represented a fresh and sophisticated contribution to the conversation occurring in Europe and North America in the first half of the twentieth century about how best to design affordable housing. Taken individually, each row of Greenbelt's original brick units capped by slate roofs or flat-roofed concrete block homes looks rather plain. However, when these short residential rows are combined into a myriad of court configurations and connected with pathways that line both service sides and backyards, they provide picturesque and satisfying shelter. Lining Centerway and Parkway, Greenbelt's New Deal garden apartments were designed as pristine ribbons lying gently on the land. At 75, the staggered or continuous facades and projecting canopies and glass

See HOUSING, page 12

No Surprises in Election, Low Turnout, Romney Wins

by James K. Giese

Greenbelt's election results in general followed those of both the state and Prince George's County, with some slight variances. On the Democratic side, Greenbelters gave 93 percent of their votes to President Barack Obama in his bid for a second term. This is a slightly better percentage than occurred statewide, but somewhat lower than for the county as a whole.

On the Republican side, the Greenbelt preference was for Mitt Romney for president; again the 39 percent of votes he received was greater than that for the state but less than that for the county. However, Ron Paul, who placed fourth among the Republicans in the state and county, received, in

the five Greenbelt precincts, 17 percent of the vote, putting him in third place over Newt Gingrich and nearly doubling the percentage he received statewide. Paul is particularly popular among university students and attracted a large crowd at the University of Maryland during a campaign stop. The large number of students living in Greenbelt probably caused his modest surge here.

Senator

In Greenbelt, Senator Ben Cardin obtained a higher percentage (79%) of the votes than he did statewide. At Springhill Lake School, Anthony Muse received more votes (28 vs. 25)

See ELECTION, page 6

What Goes On

Thursday, April 5

7:30 p.m., Greenbelt Middle School Task Force, Youth Center Multi-Purpose Room

Saturday, April 7

10 a.m., Sharp – Egg Hunt, Buddy Attack Park (18 months-6th grade)

Monday, April 9

8 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building, Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltd.gov

Wednesday, April 11

7:30 p.m., Budget Worksession on Recreation, Community Center

Letters

It Takes a Village

Greenbelt Elementary teachers, staff, PTA members, parents and the support of local and regional community foundations made it possible to so successfully garner grants for arts and other educational opportunities highlighted in the piece in last week's edition.

My role – the writing – was showcased extensively but was just one small piece of a team effort. Success was mostly due to the incredible commitment, time and energy of truly notable women: Mimi Noorani, Anne Gardner, Kimberly Siedel, Beatrice Sanders, Lucy Dirksen, Dara Case, Beth Novick, Barbara Simon, and many more who helped in countless ways with every proposal and did the even harder work of implementing programs after they were funded.

Special thanks also to Elise Moscati at Greenbelt Elementary School, whose leadership successfully secured funds for the Wii Fit industrial system referred to in the piece. Ms. Moscati identified the opportunity to use technology to encourage unmotivated students to embrace physical activity. She is to be commended for thinking creatively to get children excited about moving, especially in response to the climbing obesity rates in our region. Unfortunately, despite receiving this equipment nearly a year ago, the system is still not installed due to shortfalls in the county's budget and the school waits patiently for a technician. One hopes there will be a happy ending to this story soon.

But the biggest shout out goes to my husband, Jeremy Ehrenreich. His support and partnership has enabled me to make the time to participate in our community alongside many others.

Melissa Ehrenreich

A Review

Open Mike at New Deal Café Offers Wit and Fun

by Jim Link

Various haiku, a sestina, a parody, even some vigorous rap poetry flourished on the first day of spring, Tuesday, March 20, at the New Deal Café's open-mike reading.

Some 45 enthusiastic audience members cheered raucously as Amethyst, the mistress of the revels, announced that "we have come to be danced!" She urged us to "sharpen our claws and our tongues!" and the 15 readers bruised, caressed and jollified us accordingly.

A slight sample of the evening's fare included Kim's reading of "Runaway Husband Haiku," Eileen's witty rendition of "The Flight Attendant" and Janet's hilarious parody of Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind" – her tenderly romantic "New York Colonoscopy."

John read a sestina, a very tricky 39-line verse form, in tribute to Edgar Rice Burroughs and his vine-swinging Tarzan. Rocky reminisced about enduring his class peers' critiques of his art work: "They could edit the smile off the Mona Lisa."

Sarah read tributes to Marilyn Monroe and James Dean from "Fathom," her high school literary magazine; Mike read "Cowpoke Joe"; Julie described

gardening spontaneously in "the damp, primal earth" wearing her dress black flats (shoes) and David treated us to a taxonomy of undershorts with his "My Underwear."

The biggest surprise of the night came from Analysis, who delivered his long, intelligent, witty rap lyrics without using the mike or any notes. Moving easily through and around the tables, Analysis paid homage to his great grandmother Nana and belted out the revolutionary message, "May the strength of the earth be with you!"

Iconoclastic 17-year-old Devin spoke of "my innate need for paranoia." Barbara beautifully reminded us that "the rhythm of the universe begins with your pulse," while her husband Ray enigmatically reminded us in German that "life is like a chicken house ladder." John Henry assured us that "God Courts Us" (by Hafiz); Catherine read "Aubade."

Much of this pagan frolic was captured on camera by the ubiquitous Eric Zhang, whose photos can be seen at Greenbelt in 2012 wordpress.com.

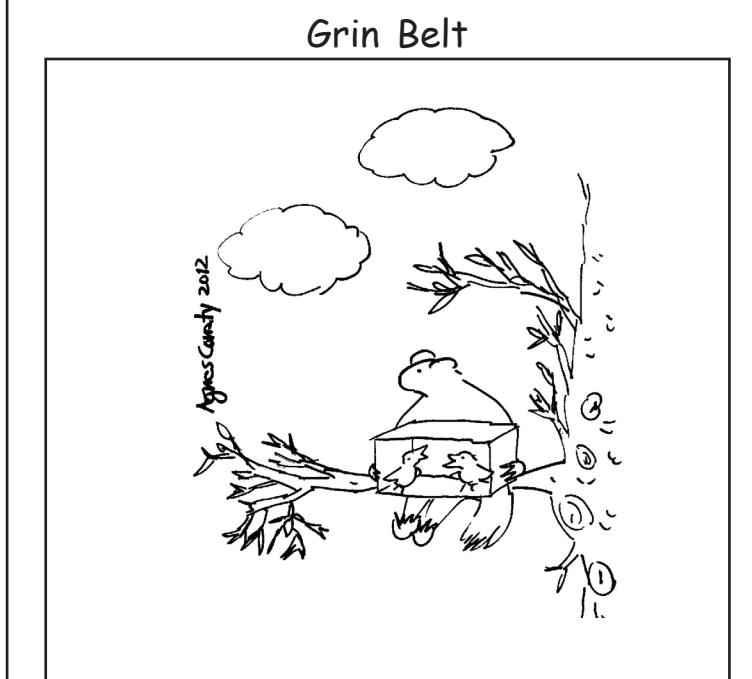
Join the next frolic Tuesday, April 17 at 7 p.m. at the New Deal Café. Underwear optional.

Learn How to Use Wildflower Guides

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens will sponsor a one-day class on using a field guide for wildflower identification on Saturday, April 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Handouts will be provided on terminology and criteria for a good field guide; copies will be available to check preference. The class will stress recognizing families of plants such as mints, sedges,

magnolias, snapdragons, asters, peas and mustards.

Pre-registration is not required. The class will be offered again on Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is located just off the Baltimore-Washington Parkway at 1550 Anacostia Avenue, NE in the District. For more information call 202-426-6905.



**"Am I gonna hold my Easter peeps
diorama until Spring Break is over?"**

Greenbriar Condo Elects Directors

The Greenbriar Community Association had its annual meeting on March 27 and elected the following officers for the coming year: President Jeanette Gordy, Vice President Therese Benedik, Secretary Angeline Butler, Treasurer Michael Marshall and Director Dorothy Peck.

Board meetings are held at the community building monthly

for each association. Owners and residents are encouraged to attend. Greenbriar Phase III meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m., with Greenbriar Phases I and II meeting the same evening at 7:30 p.m. Greenbriar Community Association board meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Alfred M. Skolnik, President, 1959-1977

Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985

President Emeritus, 1985-

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News Editor: Elaine Skolnik 301-598-1805

Assistant to the Editor: Eileen Farnham 301-513-0482

Photo Editor: Helen Sydavar

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CIRCULATION

Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624

Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 301-474-1526

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Renata York, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg; and Denise George

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$40/year.

**Dive in to the Spring Yard Sale at
Greenbelt Community Church**

**Hillside and
Crescent Roads**

**Saturday, April 14
9:00 am to 1:00 pm**



VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED:

GHI MEMBERS TO SERVE ON A GHI TASK FORCE ORGANIZING GHI'S PARTICIPATION IN THE

2012 GREENBELT LABOR DAY FESTIVAL

Anyone interested should complete
A GHI Volunteer Interest Form

Available online at

<http://ghi.coop/content/volunteer-interest-form>

Or contact Sheri Swaim in the Management Office

301-474-4161, ext. 148.

Applications are due by April 16th.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

**OLD GREENBELT
THEATRE**

WEEK OF APRIL 6

**SALMON FISHING
IN THE YEMEN
(PG-13)**

FRIDAY – SATURDAY
*3, *5:15, 7:30, 9:40

CLASSIC FILM SERIES
SATURDAY AT NOON
ALL SEATS \$5.00
JAMES STEWART AND
WALTER BRENNAN IN
THE FAR COUNTRY (1954)

SUNDAY
*3, *5:15, 7:30

MONDAY – THURSDAY
*5:15, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.50
**Tuesday is Bargain Day.
All Seats Only \$5.00.**

Now accepting Visa, Discover and
MasterCard for ticket sales only.
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129 Centerway
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Community Events

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition "Food and Friendship" program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.

All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for April 9 through 13:

Monday – Orange juice, meatballs with marinara sauce, pasta shells, zucchini, diced peaches.

Tuesday – Cranberry juice, roast beef with gravy, black-eyed peas, green beans, fresh apple.

Wednesday – Apple juice, chicken Mandarin, fried rice, Oriental-blend vegetables, Mandarin oranges.

Thursday – Orange juice, roasted chicken with garden sauce, steamed cabbage, baby carrots, fruit gelatin.

Friday – Cranberry juice, vegetarian chili, brown rice, collard greens, fresh orange.

At the Library

Bookids

Tuesday, April 10, 4 p.m.: Children's Book Discussion for ages 8 to 12. Discussing Sara Pennypacker's "Clementine."

Storytimes

On Wednesdays and Thursdays a librarian reads age-appropriate stories to children and parents using imagination and props.

Wednesday, April 11, 10:30 a.m.: Drop-in Storytime for ages 3 to 5 years.

Thursday, April 12, 12:30 p.m.: Toddler Time for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver.

Space is limited; pick up a free ticket for Storytime events at the information desk.

Adult Programs

Tuesday, April 10, 7 p.m.: Historian C.R. Gibbs presents an audio-visual lecture for adults and older children on Great Black Women in the weekly series of talks through June 26 on African American history and culture.

Saturday, April 14, 11 a.m.: Master Gardeners of Prince George's County will offer a program on starting a vegetable garden.

For more information on any of these programs or events visit the library, call 301-345-5800 or visit www.pgclms.info.

GHI Notes

Monday, April 9, 7 p.m., Executive Session of the Board – Board Room

Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m., Nominations and Elections Committee Meeting – GHI Library

Wednesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m., Architectural Review Committee Meeting – Board Room

Thursday, April 12, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting – Board Room

Friday, April 13, Office Closed – For emergency maintenance service call 301-474-6011

Monday, April 16, 7 p.m., Additions Maintenance Program Task Force Meeting – Board Room

Tuesday, April 17, 8:30 a.m., Yardline Committee Meeting – GHI Library

7:30 p.m., Companion Animal Committee Meeting – GHI Lobby

Wednesday, April 18, 7 p.m., Woodlands Committee Meeting – Board Room

Thursday, April 19, 7 p.m., Finance Committee Meeting – Board Room

Saturday, April 21, 11 a.m., Pre-Purchase Orientation – Board Room

Note: Committee and board meetings are open; members are encouraged to attend.

Watershed Cleanup Needs Volunteers

Greenbelt Park will participate in the Alice Ferguson Foundation's 24th annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup on Saturday, April 14 from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed to help remove trash and debris.

The annual cleanup is the largest project of its kind in the region. Last year volunteers removed over 250 tons of trash from the Potomac River watershed, including 21,597 plastic bags, 1,844 tires and two couches.

To volunteer at Greenbelt Park, call 301-344-3944. More information is available at Greenbelt Park's website www.nps.gov/gree. To find other watershed cleanup sites go to potomaccleanup.org

More Community Events on pages 2, 5, 6, 7 and 11

Explore 150 Years Of USDA History

On Friday, April 13 at 1 p.m. Robert Griesbach will appear at the Explorations Unlimited program with a presentation on the history of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "150 Years of Research at USDA: New Plants."

The USDA celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2012. One of its primary original functions was to "procure, propagate and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants." Griesbach's talk will describe highlights from 150 years of USDA's introducing and breeding new plants – many of those "new" plants have now become standard crops, such as soybeans.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. This presentation will be in Room 114. All are welcome to attend and questions are encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

The Golden Age Club is living up to its reputation for being a group of active seniors.

The Chinese Auction will be held on April 11 and is lots of fun.

There will be no regular meeting on April 18 as we have the 55th anniversary luncheon on April 19 at the Holiday Inn on Route 1 near IKEA. Doors open at 11 a.m.

Club members leave on April 23 on an overnight trip to Fredericksburg, Va. The trip includes garden and house tours, a Garden Day tea, wine tasting and lots more.

We are pleased to have welcomed several new members and guests, who are always welcome. Come see what we do and enjoy being with friends.

Remember – sharing is caring.

GCAN, CHEARS Hold 99% Spring Lecture

An organization inspired by Occupy Wall Street and activists for the cause of Madison, Wisc., workers, The 99% Spring, will hold an event here sponsored by GCAN (Greenbelt Climate Action Network) and CHEARS (Chesapeake Education, Arts & Research Society) and led by Lore Rosenthal and Jennifer Robinson. In the week of April 9 through 15, The 99% Spring aims to bring word on what happened to the economy, teach participants the history of non-violent direct action and how to use that knowledge to take action in campaigns to obtain change.

The Greenbelt program will be held on Saturday, April 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Community Center in Room 202.

Sign up for the training online at http://moveon.org/event/events/event.html?event_id=127691&id=1. For more information email Jennifer Robinson at jrobinson720@yahoo.com.

Computer Club Sets Monthly Meeting

The Greenbelt Computer Club will hold its April meeting on Thursday, April 12 at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Room 103



from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW

Visually impaired may listen for free
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear
301-681-6636

No special equipment needed

Greenbriar Community Yardsale

Don't Miss Out! All are invited to enjoy a summer yard sale to take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 28. Over 20 vendors will be present. Light refreshments will be sold!

RAIN OR SHINE
Please call or stop by the office from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM for more information!
Tel: 301-441-1096

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday 10am – 4pm
Third Saturday every month, 10am – 1pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

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Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111

ACADEMY STADIUM THEATRE BELTWAY PLAZA MALL 301-220-1155

LOWEST PRICES IN THE AREA FOR ALL MOVIES INCLUDING 3D

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3D charge is additional

* All Shows Before Noon are \$5.00

Free Senior Movie
First Monday of Every Month

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R = ID Required
(!) = No pass, (!!) No pass weekend

WEEK OF APRIL 6

FRI. – MON.

21 Jump Street, R
11:55, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
Hunger Games, PG-13 (!!)
11:30, 3, 5:05, 6:30, 8, 9:30
Wrath of the Titans in 2D, PG-13 (!)
12:20, 2:55, 5:30, 7:50, 10:15
Wrath of the Titans in 3D, PG-13 (!)

11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40
Mirror, Mirror, PG-13 (!)
11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:35

Titanic in 3D, PG-13

11:20, 3:30, 7:40
American Reunion, R (!)

11:50, 2:25, 4:55, 7:35, 10:05
Dr. Seuss' The Lorax, PG
11:20, 1:10, 3

TUE. – THU.

21 Jump Street, R
11:55, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15
Hunger Games, PG-13 (!!)
11:30, 3, 4:30, 6:30, 7:25
Wrath of the Titans in 2D, PG-13 (!!!)

12:20, 2:55, 5:30, 7:50
Wrath of the Titans in 3D, PG-13 (!)

11:50, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10
Mirror, Mirror, PG-13 (!)
11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10

Titanic in 3D, PG-13

11:30, 3:15, 7
American Reunion, R (!)

11:50, 2:25, 5:05, 7:35
Dr. Seuss' The Lorax, PG
11:40, 2:30

Celtic Concert at GAC!

Homespun Ceilidh Band



April 7 at 8PM

Ticket prices: \$17 General Admission,
\$14 Students/Seniors

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770
email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org
or BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at www.greenbeltartscenter.org

Coming Soon:

April 27 – May 19 – The Graduate

123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP

The Bus Seniors and Customers with Disabilities RIDE FREE



Babe Ruth Baseball Signups

Players age 13-15 call Mark @ 301 793-0097
Players age 16-18 call Bob @ 301 345-1033



PHOTO BY HELEN SYDAVAR

Azaleas are in full bloom throughout the city.

Greenhills Couple Pleased With Stay in Greenbelt

by Eli Flam

"We feel like we've lived here forever," said Peggy Hermes on the second day in Greenbelt for her and husband Greg. Activists in Greenbelt's quondam sister town of Greenhills, Ohio, they drove here on Sunday, April 1. By Monday they were paying calls on City Hall and GHI – including its gardens – as well as walking around the lake, eating at the New Deal Café and admiring the Fitness & Aquatic Center.

Before going to Old Greenbelt Theatre on Tuesday, they looked in on the News Review and were impressed that volunteers put out the paper weekly. (The Greenhills Journal is a monthly in their town of less than 4,000 people.) Peggy, a "lifer" whose parents moved into Greenhills in 1941, is a teacher's assistant and volunteer secretary for the Greenhill Recreation Commission. A year ago they came up with One Call Now, which alerts residents by one phone call about community activities, such as an outdoor concert – or its cancellation due to rain.

Greg, who moved to Greenhills on marrying Peggy 35 years ago, has his own remodeling business and has been on the Village Council for six years. (They have four children; ages 27 to 35, who live nearby; Cincinnati is 12 miles away.) He found it unusual that the original homes in Greenbelt were built with concrete floors, upstairs and down. "The German model," he said.

While Greenhills is no longer a co-op, it depends – like Green-

belt – on volunteers pitching in on many fronts. Peggy and Greg Hermes were taken with what they saw as the high level of volunteer work here and planned to bring ideas back home when they leave later in the week.

– Kathleen McFarland

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



Sunday at 10 a.m.
Rev. Diane Teichert

See our website: www.pbuuc.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbelturnc.org 301-474-9410



Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Worship Service 10am



Greenbelt Baptist Church

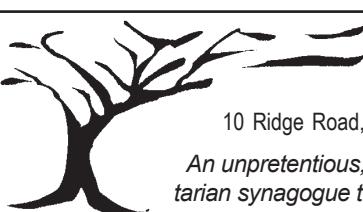
101 Greenhill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770 – (301) 474-4212
www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School
Sunday 11:00 am Worship Service
Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

ALL are Welcome!

"Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family Through Loving Service"

Congregation Mishkan Torah



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM. Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults. Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children. Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program. Opportunity for leadership development. Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors. Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities. Interfaith families are welcome.

Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

Our Neighbors

Condolences to Rita Miller Sayer and family on the death of her father, longtime Berwyn Heights resident Alfred Elwyn Miller, 94, on March 28, 2012.

Congratulations to:

– Karen Seaton and Ken Silberman, who completed basic Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and refresher CERT training, respectively, on April 1.

– Community Resource Advocate Christal Batey, who has been elected for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2012, as chairperson of the County Executive's Advisory Committee on Aging.

– Greenbelt's Boys & Girls Club members Jerrell Saint Felix (Boy of the Year), Octavia Wilson (Girl of the Year), Kenny Calhoun (Man of the Year) and Kristina Smith (Woman of the Year), who were recognized by the county Boys & Girls Clubs at its March 4 award banquet. See story on page 9 for more details.

Happy 94th birthday to 2008 Outstanding Citizen, longtime Greenbelter Leonie Penney, who will soon be moving to a new residence at Riderwood. Family, neighbors and many friends stopped by her Greenbelt home last Saturday to help celebrate her birthday and wish her good luck in her new venture.

– Kathleen McFarland



Easter Sunrise Service

An ecumenical Easter sunrise service will be held on Sunday, April 8 at 7 a.m. at Buddy Attick Park. The rain location will be the Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Road. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to the park.



Arts, crafts and sciences uplift the world of being, and are conducive to its exaltation. Knowledge is as wings to man's life, and a ladder for his ascent. The knowledge of such sciences, however, should be acquired as can profit the peoples of the earth. (Baha'u'llah)

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.bahai.us



St. George's Episcopal Church

Join us around a table where all are welcome!

Services

- Sundays
 - 8 a.m. simple, quiet service (no music)
 - 10 a.m. main service
 - (music includes a mixture of acoustic guitar, piano and organ music)

• Wednesdays

- 7 p.m. service with healing prayers (no music)

7010 Glenn Dale Road (Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)
301-262-3285 | rector@stgeo.org | www.stgeo.org

BERWYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. James Lawton - Pastor
301-474-7573
6301 Greenbelt Road
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740
berwypresbyterian.net

Worship : Sundays at 11:00 am -- Child Care Available
Sunday School: Sundays at 9:30 am
Office Hours : M-F 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



"A hospitable, multicultural community of faith"

Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbelucc.org
Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.
Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322



Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111
www.myholycross.org email myholycross@verizon.net

Easter Worship Services

Good Friday – April 6

Services at 12:15 and 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 8

Festive Service of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

Easter Reception Follows Service

Holy Cross Lutheran Church is a traditional Bible-believing, Christ-centered congregation! Join Us!
Join us on Facebook at Holy Cross Lutheran Greenbelt

Catholic Community of Greenbelt

SUNDAY MASS AT MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 10:00 AM

HOLY THURSDAY LITURGY AT MUNICIPAL BUILDING April 5, 6:30 PM (Pot Luck)

ALL ARE WELCOME

Congregation Mishkan Torah

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM. Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults. Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children. Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program. Opportunity for leadership development. Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors. Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities. Interfaith families are welcome.

Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111
www.myholycross.org email myholycross@verizon.net

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Join us on Facebook at Holy Cross Lutheran Greenbelt

Upcoming Events At New Deal Café

Friday, April 6 John Guernsey plays classical and jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., then Stealing Liberty plays jazzy, up-tempo versions of the Grateful Dead from 8 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, April 7 begins with the TV John Show from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by Bruce Kritt on classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. John Guernsey plays jazz and blues piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., then IlyAMY headlines with churning percussive acoustic guitar and driving lyrical force from 8 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, April 8 the café is closed.

Next Week

Tuesday, April 10 B.G. and the Mojo Hands Duo perform acoustic Delta blues from 7 to 9 p.m. On Wednesday, April 11 Jayme and Mark return with vocal and soft rock, blues and jazz from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 12 pianist Amy C. Kraft plays mid-day melodies from noon to 2 p.m. The Underscore Orkestra, a Portland, Ore.-based performance group plays a blend of Balkan, Klezmer, Gypsy Jazz and Swing from 7 to 9 p.m. On Friday, April 13 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. pianist John Guernsey plays classical and jazz piano, then Silver City follows with the best of bluegrass, honkytonk, folk and other Americana music from 8 to 11 p.m. The Saturday, April 14 schedule begins with Bruce Kritt on classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m., followed by John Guernsey with up-tempo jazz piano from 6:30-8. Veronneau headlines with World and Gypsy Jazz, Bossa Nova and ace vocals from 8 to 11 p.m. Bring the whole family to the monthly kid's open microphone session Sunday, April 15 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., then pick up maps at the Café for the 75th Anniversary Greenbelt Studio Artists Tour from 2 to 5 p.m. Meet the artists and listen to 30s era jazz and the announcement of awards at the Art Reception Sunday evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

Co-op Food Demos, Wine Tasting Events

Friday evening wine tasting events will be held on April 6, 13 and 20 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Co-op Grocery store. Wine tasting events feature a \$1 discount on all tasted wines during the event.

New to Natural

The monthly New to Natural food demo will be held on Wednesday, April 11 from 4 to 6 p.m. and will feature Boomi and Rise energy bars.

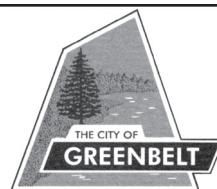
Seasonal & Savory

Held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, also patron appreciation day with 5 percent discounts on all purchases, this month's seasonal and savory dish will be a mushroom spring pea risotto. There will also be a bonus wine tasting during this demo.

Annual Meeting

Co-op's annual membership meeting will be held on Saturday, April 14 at 10 a.m. at the Community Center.

Smell Gas?
(Sulfur or rotten eggs)
**Call Washington
Gas Light**
800-752-7520 or 911



City Information

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL MEETING April 9, 2012 - Municipal Building at 8:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

- Michael Lyles, Executive Director of Human Relations, Prince George's County
- Earth Day Proclamation
- Arbor Day Proclamation
- National Kids to Parks Day Proclamation
- Introduction of New Police Officer

Petitions and Requests (Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)

Minutes of Council Meetings

Administrative Reports

Council Reports

Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

OTHER BUSINESS

- Advisory Committee on Trees Report #2011-2 (Bradford Pear Trees)
- FY 2013 Annual Action Plan (CR-012-2012)
- County Legislation
- Other Reports

MEETINGS

NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda, subject to change. Regular Council meetings are open to the public, and all interested citizens are invited to attend. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10am on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail cmurray@greenbeltdmd.gov to reach the City Clerk.

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 9-13

Monday, April 9 at 8:00 p.m., **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING** at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltdmd.gov

Monday, April 9th after Council Meeting, **EXECUTIVE SESSION – re: Personnel**

Wednesday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m., **EXECUTIVE SESSION – re: Personnel**

Wednesday, April 11 at 7:30pm **BUDGET WORK SESSION-RECREATION**, at the Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.



GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER 550-A Crescent Road (behind Police Station)

Cassie was found roaming the streets of Greenbelt all by herself. She can be a bit shy at times, but she gets along with other dogs and is very sweet and mellow.

Come out and visit all of the available pets! The shelter is open on Wednesdays from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm or by appointment. INFO: 301.474.6124. Donations welcome! Like us on Facebook!

Apply Now for Artist's Studio Space
Greenbelt Community Center
24-hour access
Details and application at
www.greenbeltdmd.gov/arts

FREE GLUCOSE SCREENING Tuesday, April 10 from 11am-1pm Greenbelt Community Center 15 Crescent Road, Room 103

Speak with a nurse to get answers to your questions. Learn how to improve and maintain healthy glucose levels! For more information contact Courtney Swanson at cswanson@greenbeltdmd.gov or 301-345-6660 ext. 3002

GREENBELT RECREATION SUMMER POSTCARD CONTEST.



Visit the City of Greenbelt facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt and vote for your favorite postcard design by "liking" it during the week of April 3-10. Winning design will be the Recreation Postcard that is mailed out to all Greenbelt Residents.



REGISTER NOW FOR THE SYMPOSIUM: SUSTAINING GREENBELT'S LEGACY

Friday, April 27, 9:30-5:30 & Saturday, April 28, 9:30-2:30

Symposium: Academics from several universities, city staff and Greenbelt residents examine the city's enduring legacies in terms of community planning, recreation, cooperative ventures and citizen activism. Dr. Mervyn Miller, an English planning historian, delivers a keynote address, "From The British Garden City to Greenbelt and Back to the English New Towns" at 1:00 pm, Saturday. For additional information contact Dr. Isabelle Gournay at gournay@umd.edu or www.greenbeltdmd.gov/75 Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-507-6582 Fee

Registration Forms Available at
www.greenbeltdmd.gov/75

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Employee Relations Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Public Safety Advisory Committee and Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

For information call 301-474-8000.

EGG HUNT

**Saturday, April 7th at 10am Sharp!
Buddy Attick Park, 555**

Crescent Road

Bring your basket and help the Bunny find the eggs he and his helpers have hidden! For Ages 18 months-6th Grade. Immediately following the Hunt, we invite you to stay for the MAYHAM MAGICAL CIRCUS SHOW, featuring Greg May.



Please call the Weather & Information Hotline at 301-474-0646 the morning of the hunt for updated information. In case of inclement weather, festivities will be held on Monday, April 9th at Buddy Attick Park.

POTOMAC WATERSHED CLEAN-UP SATURDAY, April 14th from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Come and join members of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES), and Cub Scout Pack 202 to remove litter and other debris from two sites in Greenbelt.

1) SPRINGHILL LAKE STREAM (Green ACES): Meet at the SHL Recreation Center. At this site you can also help with the Three Sisters Garden Project. For details call Brian Gibbons at 301-614-0586 or email at btppg2252@yahoo.com

2) BUDDY ATTICK PARK (Cub Scouts): Meet at the picnic tables at the park. For details email Farah Ahmed at omarskhan@gmail.com

* Bring your work gloves.

* Wear Comfortable Clothing and Boots – or old shoes.

* Attention Students – Community Service Hours will be given.

Bring your forms!!

This event is organized by the Alice Ferguson Foundation: www.fergusonfoundation.org/trash_initiative/trash_cleanup.shtml For more information, call Luisa Robles at 240 542 2153 or email at lrobles@greenbeltdmd.gov

BECOME A LIFEGUARD!

**The Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center (GAFC) is offering Lifeguard Training!
101 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770**

Lifeguarding Pre-Test is April 14th or April 19th from 6-9:30pm at the GAFC. Ages 15+. \$5.

Lifeguarding Class: 257181-A Tu/Th 6-9:30pm/GAFC Classroom. 8 meetings from 4/24-5/17. Or...257181-B Sa 1-8pm GAFC Classroom. 4 meetings from 4/21-5/12. PH \$160, RNPH \$176 and NRNPH \$200.

Lifeguarding Review: for those who are currently certified or whose certification expired no more than 12 months ago. Good for recertification. 257182-A Sa/Su from 1-8pm, 2 meetings 4/14 and 4/15. Or Sa/Su 1-8pm, 2 meetings 5/19-5/20. PH \$100, RNPH \$110 and NRNPH \$125.

Please call 301-397-2204 or visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/GAFC from more information.

ELECTION continued from page 1



PHOTO BY ERIC ZHANG

From left, election judges Germaine Timmermans, Alan Huff, Shennika Fletcher, Barbara Hansborough and Jim Harbaugh work at the polling place in the Greenbelt Community Center gym.

than Cardin, although the number of votes cast was small with only five percent of the registered Democrats voting. Greenbelt Republicans gave more votes to Daniel John Bongino to be Cardin's opponent in the general election, as did the state and county, although only a third of all registered Republicans voted.

Congress

It is often said that whenever redistricting occurs, Congressman Steny Hoyer makes certain that Greenbelt remains in his district because of the strong support he receives here. Considering that Greenbelt is at one end of his district while St. Mary is at the other and most of his district is in southern Maryland, this might be true. If so, Greenbelt evidenced its continued support

for him, giving him a higher percentage (87%) of its votes than either the county or the Congressional District as a whole. Hoyer's Republican opponent chosen by the primary election is Tony O'Donnell who was somewhat less favored here than in either the county or state.

Voter Turnout

By all accounts, turnout was light with about 14 percent of the registered Democrats voting and about 20 percent of the Republicans. The highest turnout of registered voters was at Greenbelt Elementary School with 20 percent of Democrats and 26 percent of Republicans registered voting. This precinct also has the highest percentage of Republicans of any Greenbelt precinct with 27 percent of the votes cast being Republican.

Girl Scouts to Hold Anniversary Event

On Sunday, April 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. Greenbelt Girl Scouts will hold an open house anniversary celebration on the Community Center lawn in conjunction with Greenbelt 75th Anniversary events. There will be a sing-along at 1:30 p.m.

All are invited to join and learn about Girl Scout outdoor skills including building a fire and lashing crafts, making crafts and swaps, Girl Scouts in other countries, view Girl Scout uniforms and materials from the past and visit the Greenbelt Museum. All past Girl Scouts are encouraged to come sign the guest book and share their memories.

Bring a sit-on and water bottle; dress for the weather. The event is all outdoors and will be cancelled if it rains.

Community Church Annual Yard Sale

The Greenbelt Community Church will hold its annual yard sale on Saturday, April 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Crescent and Hillside Roads.

For sale will be many tables of donated treasures awaiting new homes. There will also be homemade baked goods and lunch prepared by the church youth group, with all proceeds benefiting Help by Phone.

Those with items to donate are asked to bring them to the church basement between April 11 and 13 in the evening (no shoes or clothes).

2012 Maryland Primary -- Greenbelt Precincts
(Unofficial Results)

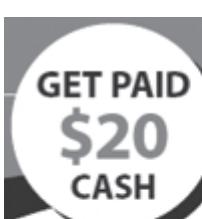
	Community Center 21-3	Greenbelt Elementary 21-6	SHL Elementary 21-8	Eleanor Roosevelt 21-13	Turning Point 21-18	Total Greenbelt	Percent
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY							
President							
Obama, Barack	339	230	53	210	200	1,032	93.6%
Uncommitted to Any	25	33	2	6	5	71	6.4%
Total	364	263	55	216	205	1,103	100%
Congress - 5th District							
Hoyer, Steny	314	215	40	173	173	915	87.0%
Cathy Johnson Pendleton	34	34	15	28	26	137	13.0%
Total	348	249	55	201	199	1,052	100%
U.S. Senator							
Raymond Levi Blagmon	1	1	0	0	3	5	0.46%
Ben Cardin	319	230	25	138	154	866	79.38%
J.P. Cusick	1	1	0	0	2	4	0.37%
Chris Garner	1	6	0	1	5	13	1.19%
Ralph Jaffe	0	1	0	2	1	4	0.37%
C. Anthony Muse	35	18	28	71	36	188	17.23%
Blaine Taylor	1	0	0	0	2	3	0.27%
Ed Tinus	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.18%
Lih Young	1	3	0	2	0	6	0.55%
Total	360	261	53	214	203	1,091	100%
Dem ballots cast:	368	270	57	217	208	1,120	82.7%
Unofficial Registration - Dem.	1,826	1,376	1,138	1,716	1,671	7,727	
Percent participation	20%	20%	5%	13%	12%	14%	
REPUBLICAN PRIMARY							
President							
Newt Gingrich	6	9	0	1	2	18	7.5%
Jon Huntsman	1	3	0	0	0	4	1.7%
Fred Karger	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.4%
Ron Paul	12	22	4	3	0	41	17.2%
Rick Perry	1	1	0	0	0	2	0.8%
Buddy Roemer	1	2	1	1	0	5	2.1%
Mitt Romney	27	40	1	12	13	93	38.9%
Rick Santorum	22	30	0	13	10	75	31.4%
Total	71	107	6	30	25	239	100%
U.S. Senator							
Joseph Alexander	5	9	2	3	0	19	9.7%
Daniel John Bongino	23	27	1	10	6	67	34.4%
Robert "BRO" Broadus	3	10	0	0	0	13	6.7%
William Thomas Capps, Jr.	1	4	0	0	1	6	3.1%
Richard J. Douglas	15	21	0	5	7	48	24.6%
Rick Hoover	4	4	1	2	2	13	6.7%
David Jones	6	1	0	4	0	11	5.6%
John B. Kimble	2	5	0	1	1	9	4.6%
Brian Vaeth	0	3	0	0	0	3	1.5%
Corrogan R. Vaughn	2	1	0	0	3	6	3.1%
Total	61	85	4	25	20	195	100%
Congress - 5th District							
David Hill	10	20	0	6	2	38	19.8%
Glenn Morton	10	22	0	3	5	40	20.8%
Tony O'Donnell	39	44	4	15	12	114	59.4%
Total	59	86	4	24	19	192	100%
Rep ballots cast:	71	104	4	30	25	234	17.3%
Unofficial registration - Rep.	329	394	68	186	173	1,150	
Percent participation	22%	26%	6%	16%	14%	20%	
Total Ballots Cast:	439	374	61	247	233	1,354	100.00%

Your Vote Is Your Voice!

**GHI Email Changes**

Beginning May 1, 2012, all GHI employees will have the same domain name: @ghi.coop. Currently, some employees have ...@ghi.coop and others have ...@greenbelthomes.net as e-mail addresses. To promote consistency, all will be changed to match the domain name of GHI's website. The local name (the information before the "@" sign) will remain the same. A list of all the contact emails, **effective May 1st**, is available both at the Administration building on Hamilton Place and on our website: www.ghi.coop.

After May 1st, any email sent to an ...@greenbelthomes.net address will be returned to the sender. The sender will be directed to re-send the e-mail to the new ...@ghi.coop address. Please make a note of these changes. If you have any questions, please contact the Management Office at mgmtoffice@greenbelthomes.net until May 1st and mgmtoffice@ghi.coop after May 1st, or call 301-474-4161, extension 148.

**HEALTHY ADULTS
18 & OLDER**

The Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation is conducting a study on **health-related beliefs** of community members.

Participants who finish the initial survey & travel to PIRE for a study are paid **\$20 cash** for their time.

ELIGIBILITY:

All participants should be able to:

✓ read, write, & speak fluent English

✓ Chance to earn even more \$\$\$

CONTACT US TODAY: researchstudies@pire.org

(or at 301-755-2470); Direct all contact to Dr. Paul Jones

HOW TO FIND US:

Calverton Office Park at:
11720 Beltsville Drive
Suite 900
Calverton, MD 20705-3102



COUNCIL continued from page 1

might cause an accident. Bill Jones disputed that, saying that motorists know what their engines sound like at different speeds.

Maryanne McAndrew Scott questioned the need for the cameras. "I don't see too many instances of a child being hit," she noted. It seems every time you turn around there's another camera," she declared, "Greenbelt is smarter than that." Jones countered that if just one child's life was saved by the program over the next five years, it would be worth it.

Johanna Goderre neither supported nor opposed the cameras but instead said "I need to be convinced," asked whether the cost of administering the program, at some point, would exceed the ticket revenue. McLaughlin said if that happens, he expects it to be "way down the road."

Michael Hartman wondered "Has anyone studied what happens if you just put up the cameras?"

Later in the meeting, council unanimously approved (6-0 with Councilmember Edward Putens absent) an ordinance to authorize McLaughlin to negotiate a contract with Brekfod Corp of Hanover, Md. The original ordinance would have permitted the city manager to enter into the contract without further council review but McLaughlin agreed to bring the contract back to council for approval.

For those wanting more information on the camera program, McLaughlin noted that the whole council packet with backup material is posted on the city's website.

Garden Proposal

Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) requested council approval to construct a rain garden in the city park behind 1 Court Gardenway. The city manager's meeting notes explained that a large amount of runoff is channeled through the area during storms and the garden would lessen the impact. GHI needs city approval of the proposal in order to apply for a grant for the work, which it wants to

undertake as a 75th Anniversary project. Matt Berres, speaking this time as GHI's Director of Maintenance, said that GHI has contacted all the park's neighbors who approved of the project. He also reported that GHI was committed to maintaining the rain garden in the long run.

Council unanimously approved the request.

Police Cars

Council authorized the purchase of four Chevrolet Caprices and one Impala for \$167,930 based on a Maryland State Police bid. The purchase amount exceeds the \$150,000 budgeted for police vehicles. McLaughlin has determined that the city has sufficient funds to cover the excess cost.

In a memorandum to McLaughlin recommending the purchase, Police Chief James Craze noted that a lot of equipment is crammed into police cars, including two way radios, computers, electronic ticket writers with printers, license plate readers, stolen vehicle locator devices, and more, leaving little room for the officer. The officers also wear a lot of equipment that takes up space such as utility belt, side arm and body armor.

In the past the city had downsized from Crown Victorias to Chevy Impalas to reduce cost. However, according to an article in "Police One Magazine," the editor found that the "cramped, uncomfortable environment can lead to a host of issues, including leg and back pain." With the Caprice, the editor found, Chevrolet took steps to resolve those issues. The Impala that the department is purchasing this year will not be used for patrol officers.

The councilmembers had no objections to the order. Some people in the audience, however, expressed disappointment that no hybrid vehicles were included in the purchase. Capt. Carl Schinner said that the department did talk to Takoma Park, which has some hybrid police vehicles. They re-

ported several challenges including insufficient storage space. In addition, the Michigan State Police, which sets nationwide standards for police equipment, has not certified any hybrid vehicle for patrol use.

Mayor Judith Davis, who owns a hybrid, noted that "anyone would be able to get away" from her hybrid in a chase.

Hartman urged the city to take another look at hybrids in order to live its values and move towards its goal of sustainable living. Council unanimously approved a motion by Councilmember Leta Mach to request that Green ACES study the issue of hybrid vehicles for all city vehicle purchases.

Pick-up Truck

The discussion of hybrids and alternative fuel vehicles continued as council approved the purchase of a Ford F-150 for the Public Works Department for \$14,810. Assistant City Manager David Moran noted that while there was a hybrid truck on the state bid it was more than double the cost at \$32,449. The truck the city is purchasing is a flex-fuel vehicle able to run on either gasoline or ethanol. However, with no convenient source of ethanol, it is likely that the truck will be solely gas-powered. Councilmember Rodney Roberts praised the longevity of natural gas-powered vehicles, however, Moran noted, there were no natural gas vehicles available on the state bid.

Hartman urged council to consider whether the hybrid would cost less over its lifetime rather than focusing solely upon the

initial cost. However, Davis stated that over the five years she has owned her hybrid, she has not made up for the higher cost and now is potentially facing the high cost of replacing the battery. Hartman acknowledged that he also has not recouped the extra cost of his hybrid.

Legislation

Council approved sending letters in support of providing the largest possible federal funding for labor, health and human services legislation, based upon a draft letter from the National League of Cities, as suggested by Mach. Council also supported proposed state legislation suggested by Mach to provide for home visits to help prevent child abuse.

Roberts' request to oppose state legislation permitting the privatization of state assets such as roads, buildings and parks died for lack of a second. He worried that over the long term, such efforts cost the public much more than keeping them government-run and feared that the law would encourage highway building.

Davis countered that if legislators do not raise the gas tax the state has to look elsewhere for the money to maintain roads. She acknowledged that there are "great and grave concerns" about privatization as the only reason companies will enter into such agreements is to make money.

Boards and Committees

Council appointed Mary Harrison to the Arts Advisory Board and Paula Williams to the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.

Area Bike Ride Held April 15

On Sunday, April 15 at 1 p.m. there will be a 26-mile area bike ride around the Greenbelt area to include the Greenbelt Metro, Greenbelt Lake, Roosevelt Center, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Schrom Hills Park, Greenbelt Park, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and Lake Artemesia. There will be double dark chocolate oatmeal walnut raisin cookies at the finish.

The ride will begin at Proteus Bicycle Shop in North College Park. Greenbelt riders can meet at 12:30 p.m. at the New Deal Café to ride to the start (or join the ride enroute). The pace will be moderate and riders are welcome to join in or drop out at any point.

Call 301-441-2928 for more information.

GCAN to Meet On Legislation

The next meeting of the Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) on Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m. in Room 114 at the Community Center will be on recent legislation. Guest speakers will update attendees on Maryland wind, solar, fracking, plastic bag legislation as well as the Keystone XL Pipeline, the Occupy Movement, Citizens United and Clean Currents. There will also be a preview of the upcoming 99% Spring Training program to be held here on April 14 (see separate article).

For more information contact Lore Rosenthal at lore@simplicity-matters.org or 301-345-2234.

EASTER MENU

Roasted Spiced Ham with a Bourbon Reduction

Herb Crusted Turkey Breast with a Thyme and Shallot Gravy

Carved Herb Crusted Leg of Lamb with Rosemary Mint Sauce

Fresh Omelets Cooked to Order

Breakfast Potatoes, Crispy Bacon, and Sausage

Waffles made to Order with Your Choice of Toppings: Fresh Berries, Whipped Cream, Butter & Maple Syrup

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\$29.95 per person plus tax and gratuity

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Seating begins at 11:00AM through 1:30PM on 4/8/2012

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Greenbelt's First Artists Studio Tour

Sunday, April 15

2-5pm



Celebrate Greenbelt's 75th Anniversary by Connecting with our Community of Artists!

Self-Guided Tour of Greenbelt Artists Studios 2-5pm

Group Exhibit Reception and Awards, 7-9pm New Deal Cafe, Roosevelt Center

Rain Date April 22

Maps of studio locations will be available on the day of the tour at the New Deal Cafe and at Ana Gasper's studio, 6718 Village Park Drive in Greenbelt East.

Reception will feature music by "Not 2 Cool Jazz Trio."

www.newdealcafe.com • (301) 474-5642

Produced by the New Deal Cafe & sponsored by the 75th Anniversary Committee and Friends of New Deal Cafe Arts (FONDCA)



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NEWS IN REVIEW

April 5, 2012

GHI in 2012 and Beyond: Community Town Hall, Part 2

On February 4, GHI held a Town Hall meeting. The GHI Action Plan and Vision/Values presented at the meeting, along with GHI responses to written questions members submitted, are available on GHI's website at www.ghi.coop. Question topics included: K-9 kennels, subleasing, the court liaison program, tax- and energy-related matters, board meetings, budget and resource conservation, the pilot upgrade and more.

The following is excerpted with permission from "Greenbelt in 2012," a photo blog by Greenbelt resident Eric Zhang, documenting Greenbelt's 75th Anniversary. Part 1 was published in the March 1 edition of GHI News In Review. All photos by Eric Zhang.

Q&A



GHI Member, Molly Lester

A member asks about considerations regarding purchasing additional apartments, whether the board is getting expert advice and whether buying properties in College Park or Silver Spring will require extra staff. She reminds the board that some Greenbelt cooperatives had gone on expansion in the past and failed. Standing on the left, moderating the Q/A session is Sylvia Lewis.

Ralph answers that the Lawrence Apartments are similar to the Parkway Apartments that GDC already owns so the staff has a good sense about maintenance problems and costs. He says that financial statements provided by Lawrence were studied and the final cost will be based on a commercial appraisal. He adds that when studying properties farther away, distance from Greenbelt will be taken into consideration.

A member asks about recent lawsuits against GHI including a highly publicized second-hand smoking lawsuit and a case involving her neighbor. She tells of a next-door neighbor who recently moved out of GHI leaving brand new clothes and furniture on the front lawn. "Unacceptable."

Boswell answers that the cost of the lawsuit was covered by GHI's insurance policy after the deductible was paid. It was ruled in GHI's favor but the member who brought the suit is appealing. He does not elaborate on the other case.

A member talks about a new approach to solar energy—solar gardens. Maryland State Senator Paul Pinsky is sponsoring a community net metering bill to allow those who cannot put panels on their roof to buy renewable energy from a collective source to offset their own energy usage. (A net metering bill for individual homes or businesses, also sponsored by Pinsky, passed the Maryland legislature last year).

Tom Sporne, Director of Technical Services Department, tells that GHI has studied putting solar panels on the roof of its administration building. "We recently came to conclusion that it's not a good situation to purchase the panels themselves, but now we are investigating a prepaid lease."

A member is concerned about rent-

als. "Are you enforcing the rules on rental of GHI homes by members to others? And if not, then why not?"

Ralph answers that GHI has approved the subletting of 22 units, and of them three subleases have expired. GHI is working with these members to resolve the situation. He also received an anonymous note last week regarding a member subletting without permission, and that needs to be investigated. There are also situations where members own two units and are not living in either one. He tells of someone working in D.C. and wanting to move there; however he is underwater with his mortgage and cannot afford to sell the home with a big loss. Ralph says that it is good to have a task force to consider these issues and encourages members to come to its meetings and find solutions.

SAVE THE DATE! GHI ANNUAL MEETING

May 17, 2012
7:30 p.m.
Greenbelt Community Center

Boswell adds that in the past rentals were strongly discouraged in part because GHI as a whole got the homestead tax credit and had to certify the community is owner-occupied. Now with individual tax bills, the rentals no longer affect other people's homestead tax credits. "It changed the rules there." He says that the community has to figure out the impacts of subletting and the ways to deal with it.

A member says that a home in her court has been vacant for a while and is deteriorating. She asks whether the staff can look into it.

Ralph replies that that home is one of two GHI homes in foreclosure. He says that they are very much underwater and GHI's attorney is negotiating a short sale agreement with the banks so that the price can be attractive for GHI to purchase them.



Joe Perry, Director of Finance Department, talks about the ongoing real estate tax appeals. He says that GHI initiated an appeal for about 230 units and he is expecting

rulings regarding appraisal values in eight weeks. He will not know the tax amount until GHI receives the actual invoices in July.

A member raises questions about buying properties outside of Greenbelt. She notes that GHI residents have more community spirit and are likely to resolve things among themselves rather than going to court. She suggests a referendum on this issue.

Eldon Ralph talks about issues with WSSC (Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, the water and wastewater company servicing GHI) and Pepco (Potomac Electric Power Company). He says that in 1958, GHI, the City of Greenbelt, and WSSC signed an agreement to cede the responsibility for water pipes to WSSC and "actually paid them money to take those systems from us." But recently after it was determined that the pipes

need to be replaced, WSSC is asking GHI to contribute more. "If we were to follow WSSC's last proposal, we estimate we will be responsible for about 21,000 feet of piping, which would mean having to increase the replacement reserve's contributions from members in masonry homes by about \$42,000 a year, which will equate to roughly about \$60 for each individual member."

With regard to Pepco, he says that it has agreed to replace about 291 electrical poles within Greenbelt and 37,000 feet of electrical wire and promised to complete the project this year. Ralph says this is not related to the smart meter issue.

In answering a member's question about Pepco's plan, Matt Berres, Director of Maintenance, says that Pepco has been surveying poles and power lines and will be replacing some of the transformers and old wires. He is going through their maps to determine whether poles can be better placed.



After two hours, the meeting concludes with applause from the audience.



Sustaining Greenbelt's Legacy: Symposium on Greenbelt History
April 26 & 27
Greenbelt Community Center

Advance registration is advised.
Visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/75 for details.



Be a Part of Cooperative Living!

Come to the next Pre-Purchase Orientation for prospective members.

Saturday, April 21, 2012
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
GHI Board Room, One Hamilton Place,
Greenbelt MD 20770

For more information or to RSVP, call Kathie Linkenhoker (301) 474-4161, ext. 146.

Pepco Community Meeting

Tuesday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m.
Greenbelt Community Center
Multi-Purpose Room

Learn about the Reliability Enhancement Project that is intended to reduce outages and improve reliability in Old Greenbelt and the installation of smart meters.



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"GHIImgmt"

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

APRIL

Thu	5	7:00 p.m.	Executive Session Board Meeting
Tue	10	7:30 p.m.	N & E Committee
Wed	11	7:30 p.m.	Architectural Review Committee
Thu	12	7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
Fri	13	--	OFFICES CLOSED
Tue	17	8:30 a.m.	Yard Line Committee
Tue	17	7:30 p.m.	Companion Animal Committee
Wed	18	7:00 p.m.	Woodlands Committee
Thu	19	6:45 p.m.	Investment Committee
Thu	19	7:30 p.m.	Finance Committee
Sat	21	11:00 a.m.	Pre-Purchase Orientation
Mon	23	7:00 p.m.	Communications Committee
Tue	24	7:00 p.m.	Pepco Community Meeting @ Community Center
Wed	25	7:00 p.m.	Buildings Committee
Thu	26	7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
Fri	27	--	OFFICES CLOSED

MAY

Tue	1	7:00 p.m.	New Member Social
Sat	5	11:00 a.m.	Pre-Purchase Orientation
<i>(Dates are subject to change)</i>			
Maintenance service is available—for real emergencies only—outside of normal maintenance hours or when offices are closed.			
			Call 301-474-6011.

PG County Boys & Girls Club Honors Four City Residents

by Dea Zugby

The Prince George's County Boys and Girls Club honored four members of the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club at the 2012 Annual Awards Banquet on Sunday, March 4 at the Lafontaine Blue in Lanham. The club recognized outstanding achievements for two outstanding youth members and two adult volunteers.

Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club award recipients are:

Boy of the Year Jerrell Saint Felix, a fifth grade student at High Bridge Elementary School where he is an honor student. He has been a member of the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club since age 6 when he began playing soccer. The following year he played flag football and intramural basketball. Last year, Greenbelt introduced Track and

Field and he joined the team. With his prior years of experience with track and field with the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) since age 4, he excelled in this sport and came in first in every event with the exception of one event.

Girl of the Year Octavia Wilson is a seventh grader at Greenbelt Middle School where she is also an honor roll student. Wilson is a four-year member of the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club participating in basketball. Last year she led her 14-and-under basketball team to a championship and this year she's on an undefeated team, looking forward to another championship. She is a major asset to her team according to her coaches.

The Adult Distinguished Ser-

vice award was presented to Kenny Calhoun as Man of the Year. Calhoun is currently a basketball coach of the 10 and under Greenbelt Girls basketball team and was commissioner of intramural basketball during 2008 through 2011 for the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club. The 10 and under girls basketball team he coaches will play in the championship game on March 24.

Kristina Smith was recognized as Woman of the Year for her efforts in the capacity of Team Mom for the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club for two basketball teams, two football teams and two soccer teams. She represents the teams as liaison between the coaches of those teams and the parents of the team players.



PHOTO BY HELEN SYDAVAR

NOTICE TO GHI MEMBERS

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Thursday, April 12th, 2012

GHI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 7:30 PM

GHI Key Agenda Items:

- Yard Line Certification: 33A-D Ridge, 56A-K Crescent, 58A-M Crescent, 6A-K Crescent, 62B Crescent
- Unpermitted, Nonconforming Gardenside Entry Door, 11E Hillside
- Revision to Rules - Skylights for Covered Porches
- Annual Meeting Agenda
- Availability of Manager's Memorandum at Board Meetings
- Compiling Statistics on Home Price Trends in GHI
- Problems Arising from Some Absentee Members
- 2012 Concrete Sidewalk Contract – 1st Reading
- Task Force Report on Sub-Leasing Policy

Regular Board meetings are open to Members
For more information, visit our website - www.ghi.coop

Come Celebrate Easter - Sunday, April 8

Easter Changes Everything! @ MCF Community Church

3 Convenient Services (1 hr 15min each)

8:30a, 10a & 11:30a

MCF meets at the Hampton Inn-College Park

(9670 Baltimore Ave, College Park, 20740)

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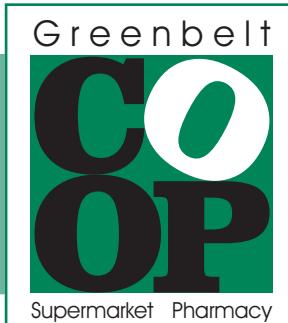
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Fresh Value Pack \$2.88 80% Lean Ground Beef	Fresh Crisp \$1.50 Iceberg Lettuce head	Shurfine Orange \$2.50 Juice 64 oz.	Green's Ice Cream \$3.00 Assorted 48-54 oz.	Fresh Catch Flounder \$6.99 Fillets lb.
Fresh Lean Beef \$3.79 Boneless Bottom Round Steaks	Large Sweet \$1.19 Seedless Grapes	Sargento Shredded \$2.50 Cheese Assorted 5-6 oz.	Birds Eye Asst. \$2.00 Vegetables Reg./Steam Fresh 10-16 oz.	Seabest Frozen \$8.99 Salmon Fillets 20 oz.

Grocery Bargains		Greenbelt Co-op Annual Membership Meeting			Grocery Bargains	
Prego Assorted \$2.00 Pasta Sauces 23-24 oz.	Progresso Traditional \$1.50 Soups Select Var. 18-19 oz.	Saturday, April 14 10am til 12noon	Greenbelt Community Center	Purex Ultra Packs \$3.99 or Liquid Laundry Detergent 26-pk./72 oz.	Kellogg's Original \$1.99 Rice Krispies 9oz.	
Barilla \$1.25 Spaghetti & Macaroni Reg./Wh. Grain 13-16 oz.	Tuttorosso Assorted Canned \$1.00 Tomatoes 28-29 oz.			Shurfine Chunk Light 80¢ Tuna 5 oz.	Kraft Assorted Barbecue \$1.00 Sauce 16-18 oz.	

Deli	Bakery	Natural & Gourmet	Health & Beauty	Beer & Wine
Deli Gourmet \$5.29 Honey Ham	Fresh Store Baked \$1.79 Vienna Bread loaf	Kind Nutrition Bars \$1.29 Assorted 1.4 oz.	Aim Toothpaste \$1.00 Assorted 6-8 oz.	Busch Beer \$3.99 6 pk.-12 oz. cans
Heidi Ann \$7.49 Swiss Style Cheese	Fresh Store Baked BUY ONE GET ONE FREE Hoagie Rolls 6 pack	Old Cape Cod \$1.49 Salad Dressings Select Varieties 8 oz.	Old Spice Asst. \$2.75 Anti-Perspirant Deodorant 2.6-3.25 oz.	Oracle Wines \$6.99 Assorted 750 ML.

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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

DWI/DUI

March 24, 3:12 a.m., Greenbelt Road at Walker Drive. A 26-year-old Greenbelt man was arrested and charged with multiple alcohol-related violations after a traffic stop. He was released on citations pending trial.

March 27, 11:53 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane. A 50-year-old Greenbelt woman was arrested and charged with multiple alcohol-related violations after a traffic stop. She was released on citations pending trial.

Disorderly Conduct

March 26, 2:11 a.m., Beltway Plaza. A 53-year-old Landover woman and a 45-year-old Greenbelt woman were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. They were released on citations pending trial.

Trespassing

March 27, 8:15 p.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. A 33-year-old Cheverly man was arrested and charged with trespassing on private property and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on citations pending trial.

Burglary

March 23, 8:48 p.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace. Electronics were taken.

March 27, 3:31 p.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road. Electronics were taken.

March 27, 10:24 p.m., 2 Court Research Road. Electronics were taken.

March 25, 8:04 a.m., 8000 block Brett Place. Nothing was taken.

Vandalism

March 26, 2:13 p.m., 5900 block Springhill Drive. A window was broken.

March 27, 1:15 p.m., 6100 block Springhill Terrace. A window was broken.

March 27, 7:58 p.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road. A window was broken.

March 28, 10:33 a.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road. A window was broken.

March 28, 7:58 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive. Graffiti was found in the stairwell.

Vehicle Crimes

One theft from vehicles was reported, a backpack and sneakers were taken from the 200 block Lakeside Drive.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Call 1-866-411-TIPS. People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.

City Notes

Street Maintenance/Special Details crew painted parking spaces, installed nine "No Parking" signs at McDonald Field and started work on the crosswalk on Centerway, ripping out old brick and putting down new blacktop.

Horticulture/Parks/Playgrounds crew installed the newly sanded and repainted wooden sign at the fire department, purchased plant materials for the bio-retention areas at Buddy Attic Park, Spring-

hill Lake Recreation Center and the area adjacent to the Youth Center parking lot and installed a storm drain swale at the underpass of Crescent Road near the Sunoco station.

Aquatic & Fitness Center staff reports preventive maintenance was performed on three ellipticals, three rowers, four recumbent bikes and five upright bikes and brushes were replaced on a treadmill. All five treadmills are now operational.



Sir Walter Raleigh Inn Easter Buffet

Come join us and enjoy a full buffet noon – 8 p.m.

- Honey Cajun Salmon
- Lump Crab Imperial
- Herb Roasted Chicken
- Vegetable Lasagna
- Our Carving Station offers our Slow Roasted Top Round Beef, Black Forest Ham, and Succulent Lamb
- Buffet also includes our famous salad bar, homemade soups, fresh baked rolls, and a full dessert station

**\$29 Adults
\$24 Seniors
\$15 Kids 7-12
Kids 6 and under free**

Call for Reservations: 301-474-3420

Greenbelt Baseball Season Opens with Parade and More



PHOTO BY ERIC ZHANG

The Indians, last year's runners-up, ride in style on Greenbelt's antique fire truck driven by George Moore. The April 1 parade to McDonald Field opened the season for Greenbelt Baseball. Mayor Judith Davis also accompanied the team on the fire truck and threw out the first pitch.

WARNING

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Hi, my name is Bob Newland and I have been a tax professional in this area for 29 years. I have an office on Route 1 near Wendy's, and an experienced "hand picked" staff. Robert C. Newland & Associates will not only prepare your tax return, we will help you keep the highest amount of money legally possible, AND, if we prepare your return, We Will Electronically File Your Tax Return with the IRS AND the State of Maryland for FREE!

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Changes Delayed for PG County Fire Commission

by Barbara Hopkins

Implementation of proposed changes to the Prince George's County Fire Commission (see News Review, October 27, 2011) that were to take effect on March 1 has been delayed. The changes themselves, which would limit the volunteer firemen's association control over its staff and financing, are still under discussion.

Kenneth Stair, president of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, told the Greenbelt City Council at its meeting on February 13 that negotiations between volunteer leadership and county officials involved with career firemen had stalled. Since then the volunteer association has hired an attorney, who has served papers on the county executive and council. Shortly thereafter, Stair said, the March 1 implementation deadline has been extended to the first week in May.

According to Stair, the attorney then advised the volunteer association to try to continue negotiations and to begin collecting signatures on a petition to bring the issues to a public referendum. Negotiations did resume, which Stair said seemed positive.

Volunteer Oversight

Frank Underwood of the Branchville Fire Department, whom Stair called "a good man," is currently in charge of the volunteers. The association has since been assured that the officer overseeing the volunteers will remain a volunteer, not a career firefighter. Stair acknowledged that the commission will be rearranged and will include civilians.

The residency requirement for volunteer firemen was passed by the county council without warning, Stair said. When the rest of the legislation is passed and enacted, it will become a requirement that volunteer firefighters must live in Prince George's County to serve.

Council Support

Stair thanked the city council for its efforts to help dissuade the county executive and council from creating laws to change the scope, structure and responsibilities of the fire commission without input from the volunteer firemen, whose services save the

See Medicinal Plants At Botanic Garden

The U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) will offer a free program entitled Mid-Day Tour in the Garden of Good and Evil: Medicinal and Poison [sic] Plants at the USBG, led by Beth Burrous, biochemist and USBG volunteer on Monday, April 9, noon to 1 p.m.

Many important medicines are derived from plants but too much of a good thing can be dangerous. During a walking tour of the Conservatory and National Garden, Burrous will feature poisonous and medicinal plants growing at the USBG. She will talk about famous, interesting and sometimes fatal cases of poisoning by plants. Visitors will also see and learn about plants used to make life-saving medicines.

county many tax dollars.

Mayor Judith Davis said she was glad to hear negotiations had resumed. She suggested council send a letter to county officials expressing appreciation that the timeline for implementation had been extended and that negotiations were continuing. She added the letter should express hope for "progress into resolving the issue for the betterment of all."

When City Manager Michael McLaughlin suggested council follow up on a proposal by the Four Cities Coalition to send a joint protest letter to the county executive and county council, the city councilmembers agreed.

Councilmember Edward Putens suggested to Stair that the volunteers should continue to collect signatures on their petition to require a public referendum on the fire commission changes.

Beltsville Garden Club April-May Plant Sales

The Beltsville Garden Club annual spring plant sales will be held on Saturdays, April 14 and May 12 from 8 a.m. to noon, rain or shine. Both sales are held in the parking lot at High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville.

The April sale includes perennials, shrubs and trees. The May sale features annuals, vegetables and herbs in addition to perennials, shrubs and trees. Plants grown in the Beltsville Garden Club greenhouse will also be available.

For more details call Geoff White at 301-937-1539 or visit www.beltsvillegardenclub.org.

Wed. Bird Walks Held At Patuxent Refuge

The Patuxent Research Refuge National Wildlife Visitor Center will hold bird walks on Wednesdays, April 11 and 25 from 8 to 10:30 a.m. for ages 16+. Search for birds in several refuge habitats on this guided hike. Field guides and binoculars are recommended.

Local Artists Gear Up For Studio Tour April 15



Shayna Skolnik at work in her studio. Skolnik is one of the 13 artists participating in the New Deal Café's Greenbelt artists studio tour on Sunday, April 15 co-sponsored by the 75th Anniversary Committee and the Friends of New Deal Café Arts. For details see www.newdealcafe.com.

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HOUSING continued from page 1

block strips have lost none of their modernity and simple elegance. Despite many owners and the lack of landmark protection, Greenbelt's New Deal garden apartments have been cared for remarkably well. Neither their architecture nor their livability should be taken for granted.

Greenbelt's residential landscape is unusual for a city of 22,000. It encompasses two contrasting housing traditions. The first, just mentioned, combines row houses and low rise apartment buildings in superblock configurations. The second consists of the mainstream suburban formula of single-detached family homes that line either through or cul-de-sac streets. In Greenbelt, this second residential trend arrived with the "Baby Boom era," after World War II, when the federal government sold the town and the GVHC (later GHI) sold vacant land for development.

Lakewood

The first tract house subdivision, Lakewood, along and near Greenhill Road, did not open until 1958. However, between 1937 and the late 1950s, interesting but little-known groups of small detached homes were implemented or envisioned west of Hillside and south of Crescent Roads. Greenbelt's original planners had imagined a community of 3,000 residential units. As early as 1937, government officials turned to private enterprise and detached dwellings in order to quiet private sector criticism of Greenbelt's public housing and comply with President Roosevelt's theory that large-scale housing by private industry held the solution to rising costs of construction. The federal government erected five detached two-bedroom houses on Woodland Way. It also leased three acres of land to a limited dividend cooperative corporation that built the 10 Parkbelt Homes on Forestway. Plans to construct another 190 steel-framed homes on 43 acres, in increments of 10, came to naught and heralded the federal government's difficulty wooing for-profit builders to Greenbelt. Although the Woodland Way and Forest Way homes looked radically different when first built, they now form an appealing visual cluster of modified Cape Cod residences.

Within Greenbelt, a grassroots movement advocating cooperatively owned detached single family housing arose almost as soon as the first tenants settled into the New Deal units. Residents whose incomes quickly exceeded public housing eligibility and those desiring larger houses for growing families clamored for detached dwellings to move into without leaving their New Deal community.

GHC

In July 1940 the federal government announced its intention to lease land in all three Greenbelt towns for 99 years to private developers agreeing to build at least 200 houses for sale in the \$5,000 range; no income restrictions would apply. A group of citizens immediately formed the nonprofit Greenbelt Homeowners Cooperative (GHC) to obtain public land, using a single loan insured by the Federal Housing Administration. This action began an important but little known effort by a series of housing cooperatives to erect

small homes in harmony with Greenbelt's innovative planning and design.

Hale Walker, Greenbelt's original planner, provided GHC with a site plan for the acreage originally intended for the Parkbelt Homes development. German-born architect Henry Klumb, who had worked for Frank Lloyd Wright and lived in Greenbelt at the time, designed a series of semi-detached two-bedroom units and freestanding three-bedroom units in the \$3,500 range for GHC. In the months leading up to Pearl Harbor, GHC anticipated that the government would approve construction of the first 21 houses, since many cooperative members were defense workers. However, the Supply Priorities and Allocations Board turned down the permits and construction was halted for the duration of the war. The only housing built during the war years was the wood framed defense homes, now part of GHI, which more than doubled Greenbelt's housing stock.

After the war, Greenbelters made two successful efforts to develop subdivisions of single-family residences. Both demonstrate the community's commitment to using nonprofit citizens' housing cooperatives to provide affordable dwellings that upheld the new town's planning and design principles.

LHO

In 1953, residents formed the Lakeside Home Owners (LHO) cooperative to purchase 25 acres overlooking the athletic fields and the lake's southwestern edge. By subdividing the land into 67 lots along Lakeside Drive and providing the infrastructure cooperatively, LHO achieved economies of scale. Households then built their own houses independently. The first dwelling was occupied in 1954 and nearly half of the lots were built upon by the decade's end. A few of the custom-designed houses erected during the 1960s showcase the user-friendly, ecological, and site-specific modernism that many Marylanders embraced at that time. At Woodland Hills, the Woodland Way-Northway subdivision already planned in 1941 was redeveloped by a new cooperative of local residents incorporated as Woodway Homes. They hired builder Carl Freeman to site 21 three- and five-bedroom brick houses on a wooded hillside; the first residents moved in in 1957.

The shifting economic and political climate of the 1950s made it difficult for small middle-income cooperatives to compete with private-sector developers, however. After GVHC sold its remaining acreage, regional merchant builders completed conventional low-density, single-family home subdivisions westward of Woodland Hills. For example, W. Evans Buchanan, a builder based in Rockville, opened Lakewood in 1958. The subdivision contained 104 houses arranged along cul de sacs on either side of Greenhill Road. Boxwood Village, with 240 houses, was developed between 1965 and 1968 by Charles Bresler; it is an exemplar of Baby Boom suburban tract housing.

Greenbelt was a latecomer to the trend in metropolitan Washington to build garden apartments. Many of these affordable rental complexes popped up prior

to and during the World War II years, to accommodate defense workers living along major highways and commuting downtown. The Greenbelt Plaza Apartments opened in Old Greenbelt in 1959, followed by Lakeside North in 1965, sited on the remaining vacant land between Boxwood Village and Kenilworth Avenue. On the other side of the lake, the row houses at Charlestowne Village opened in 1965 and University Square apartments followed in 1966. More controversial was the eight-story Charlestowne North Apartments of 1966, a "tower in the park" overlooking Greenbelt Lake, which pitted developer Charles Bresler against Greenbelt's residents and elected officials, who disapproved of the complex's concept and scale.

Springhill Lake

By far the largest addition to Greenbelt's rental housing stock was Springhill Lake, an entirely new apartment community on 311 acres between Beltway Plaza and I-495, forming the core of what we now term the Greenbelt West district. Springhill Lake totaled 2,900 units in 251 apartment blocks and 120 row houses. Built by Cohen-Haft & Associates, this huge rental community is still one of the largest apartment complexes on the East Coast. It received accolades from shelter magazines and the trade press for its "fresh ideas" for "high-density housing" and its "good land plan." Thurmond Donovan, a renowned regional landscape architect, selected the plantings for the mega-complex and the community builders included other amenities, such as an elementary school, small shopping complex, indoor-outdoor recreational facilities and, of course, pedestrian pathways.

Greenbelt East

During the 1970s, the focus of growth shifted to the creation of Greenbelt East, adjacent to the NASA Goddard campus, and to a new housing form, the condominium development. Although popular elsewhere, "condos" were a relatively new option in the United States. Thirty percent smaller and considerably less expensive than freestanding, single-family homes on average, condos attracted young households who could not afford such dwellings because of rising mortgage interest rates and who benefited from the economies of scale condominium developments offered. The core project in Greenbelt East was Greenbriar, a luxury garden complex of roughly 1,200 condominium units constructed between 1974 and 1980. After considerable negotiation with the city, the Greenbriar complex included most of the accoutrements expected of a well-planned Greenbelt community: 70 percent of the 100-acre site remained wooded; outdoor recreation facilities ranged from an outdoor pool to tennis courts, baseball and football fields and picnic areas; a clubhouse staffed with a fulltime recreational director; and private bus service to nearby work and shopping.

Several other subdivisions of lower-density, row house condominiums followed in Greenbelt East: Windsor Green (1977-1983), Glen Ora (1982-1986) and Greenwood Village (1986-87). Architecturally, these complexes were conventional fare for their era, while more upmarket than



PHOTO BY DON COMIS

Three grebes take to song.

The Three Grebes Opera And So Much More

by Don Comis

Nature is putting on a round-the-clock spring carnival of operas for Greenbelters, with the musical scores ranging from barred owl hoots heard through open bedroom windows after midnight to the choral singing of birds from morning to night. The sounds for these epic spectacles of love, death and renewal include the sonorous bass of bullfrogs at Greenbelt Lake and the wingbeats of geese and ducks.



In a shameless show of water splashing that made it impossible to miss, on the sunny afternoon of March 19, two male mallards competed for mating rights to a female mallard. A turtle show on the lake forebay, near the peninsula that same afternoon, was more family-friendly – if easier to miss – with turtles of various sizes sunning themselves on a sandy beach. They seemed to have emerged from holes in the stream bank, attracting a crowd around the fisherman who first spotted what looked like mud turtles and pond sliders on March 17.

And turtles are appearing in greater numbers for their usual sunny day perches on fallen trees and branches in the lake itself.

Turtles are one of the reptiles recently emerged from hibernation at around the same time as amphibians, which can be a problem when one is the prey of the other. On March 18 I was surprised to hear two plops in the stream near the Hillside Underpass, presumably frogs or toads.

That guess seemed to be confirmed the next day, when I saw a poor toad, about two inches long, with his back legs and bottom in the mouth of a thin

but very long snake with yellow stripes, likely a garter snake. The snake and the toad favored the same damp area where water continually drips from the stream down to the concrete flume that carries the water toward Greenbelt Lake.

I should have guessed that where there are frogs and toads, there would be snakes. But it was nice to see life along this intermittent stream that seems incapable of supporting much aquatic life, certainly not fish.

And spring is gradually adding colors to the operas' stage settings, at first mostly yellow (forsythia and daffodils on paths to the lake) and white (magnolia trees by the tennis courts and arching pear trees near the Youth Center) but later a lot of pink flowering trees or shrubs around the lake, not to mention the blues and purples of flowers lining the path to the lake from the parking lot of the former St. Hugh's school. Nature's stagecraft makes the shows more intoxicating with perfumes wafting from the flowers.

I haven't seen the winter diving ducks (hooded mergansers and ring-necked ducks) in a while, so they may have left for their northern breeding waterways. But we still have the "Three Grebes," a trio of diving pie-billed grebes that offer year-round entertainment.

And, for an aria, on March 24, a song sparrow flew to a tree near me on the lake peninsula, singing his heart out from the top of a small tree with buds about to bloom, likely a male calling for a mate.

the affordable housing in central Greenbelt and Springhill Lake. Due to their location in Greenbelt, however, they differed from standard subdivisions in the amount of open space, outdoor recreation facilities, landscaping, and provision for community gatherings they provided.

As Greenbelt transitioned from public to private market rate housing, postwar subdivisions and higher density complexes featured several elements of continuity with the original planning principles of the town. They included an abundance of open space, pedestrian pathways, family-oriented outdoor recreation

facilities, landscaping and community buildings. Developers continued to treat the natural environment as an integral part of community design. There is no doubt that Greenbelt residents and city officials pressured development companies to supply these expensive amenities. Greenbelt's original planning principles and the legacy of a well-designed community continue to inspire city and citizen involvement in maintaining sound land planning and amenities. This is a powerful testament to the enduring value of Greenbelt's original social and environmental planning.

Council Holds Stakeholder Meeting with GEAC

by Jonathan Taylor

The Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC) explored the limits of city policy on a wide range of quality-of-life issues during its annual stakeholder meeting with council on March 1.

Snow removal, crime statistics, rental permits and homelessness headlined the 150-minute meeting at Greenbriar Community Building. The full council discussed a list of questions prepared by GEAC and answered in advance by City Manager Michael McLaughlin. Thomas Crandall, a representative of the community of Greenbelt Lake Village, led GEAC's delegation and ran its presentation.

GEAC represents the interests of nine homeowner and condominium associations in Greenbelt East: Greenbelt Village, Hunting Ridge, Greenwood Village, Greenbriar-Glen Oaks, Greenbelt Lake Village, Windsor Green, Greenspring I, Greenbrook Estates and Greenspring II. According to Crandall, about 3,300 homeowners live in the units it represents.

On the topic of snow removal, GEAC was interested in what the city's position would be were GEAC to restrict parking to one side of its streets or to let residents park in their driveways (across a sidewalk) during snow emergencies. Though no formal proposal yet exists, GEAC appeared prepared to adopt such a policy without a vote of its residents, if allowed.

Council counseled caution, however.

"Homeowners should decide. The city can post a no-parking sign but council wants feedback that this is really what you want," Mayor Judith Davis warned. McLaughlin weighed in about the importance of communicating any parking policy changes well in advance, lightly reminding everyone that towing, with its average \$90 cost plus impounding fees, can create a "hubbub."

No Decisions

No decisions were made, but a suggestion from McLaughlin that GEAC consider restricting parking to one side of its streets year-round received tentative support from members of council and members of GEAC.

On the topic of crime statistics, GEAC was interested in changing the way the Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) publishes crime statistics for Greenbelt East. Its concern was that pooling of crime statistics for Greenbelt East's residential and commercial areas (e.g. Greenway Center) overstated the amount of crime in the residential areas, lowering property values. It asked council if the two areas could instead be reported separately.

To that technical question, McLaughlin and Davis answered yes. However, the discussion that followed left unclear whether separate reporting would accomplish the desired effect. Some doubted the amount of crime in the commercial areas of Greenbelt East is significant, even around now-vacant properties in Greenway Center.

On the topic of rental permits, GEAC asked about coun-

cil's control over renters who are not law-abiding. The city said it cannot restrict rentals; it only inspects properties to ensure they are livable and directs the police department to work with rental companies and property management companies to deal with renters who are not law-abiding.

Further discussion, however, revealed that GEAC's real concern was homeowners who turn their properties into rental units but do not adequately supervise the selection of tenants. Such homeowners reveal the limitations of the city's approach: it relies on owners being responsible.

One GEAC member mused about the possibility of requiring that condominium owners seeking to rent their units must first receive approval from their condominium association. He learned that enforcement of such a provision is outside council's jurisdiction. The discussion ended without specific solutions.

Homelessness

On the topic of homelessness, GEAC noted "we have homeless people around," asking "what is being done to address this unfortunate situation by the city itself or in coordination with other municipalities during inclement weather?"

When asked for more detail, one GEAC member reported having seen someone who appeared to be homeless walking toward the 7-Eleven and Greenspring II from the wooded area next to Doctors Community Hospital.

Another said she saw someone who appeared to be homeless in Schrom Hills Park (which like Buddy Attick Lake Park does not close its parking lot to vehicles at dusk).

After reminding everyone that the city cannot force people into a shelter, Davis outlined a comprehensive response drawing on public and private resources.

First, the city has an emergency assistance fund providing small amounts of money to people facing the loss of their home, in the hope that additional time can help them get back on their feet.

Second, Greenbelt CARES, the city's social service agency, can assist people in accessing county resources.

Third, Greenbelt churches, on a rotating basis, support the "Safe Haven and Warm Nights" program providing shelter for a number of homeless men. The city assists by providing showers at the Aquatic & Fitness Center.

Finally, Greenbelt is working toward "regional" solutions with its partners in the 4 Cities Coalition (Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, College Park and New Carrollton).

Other issues discussed at the meeting included the city's emergency operations plan, its budgetary approach to the economic downturn, the priorities of its code enforcement unit and the timing of municipal elections.

The Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition meets monthly.

For more information email Thomas Crandall at Thomas.j.crandall@verizon.net.

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

BUDGET continued from page 1

estimate that a slight increase in City Highway User/Gas Tax revenue (\$93,000 for FY2013) will likely not come to pass based upon what she has been hearing in Annapolis regarding the state shared revenue the state has been using to balance its own deficit-threatened budget.

Speed Camera

Another item of interest related to the Manager's budget reflecting \$500,000 in estimated revenue from implementation of a speed camera program where authorized in school zones in Greenbelt. Expecting questions on the proposed program, McLaughlin provided a memo outlining for comparison, the experiences of College Park and Bowie concerning speed camera operations.

His memo noted that College Park issued 39,400 citations from three cameras for the period July 2011 to January 2012. Projected to 12 months, College Park receipts could total \$1.6 million.

Using the same period for Bowie's six camera locations, their expected receipts could total \$2.5 million. He estimated the net revenue for each location at \$416,000 and said he believes that if Greenbelt has at least two cameras operating, \$500,000 would be a conservative revenue estimate based upon 40 violations per day per camera.

Based upon the discussion, the mayor requested that staff prepare quarterly reports on the revenue and expenditures once such a program is initiated in Greenbelt.

Still working through the Manager's introduction section of the budget, Councilmember Emmett Jordan appreciated the nearly two pages of Greenbelt Goals for FY2013 the introduction contained. Although the revised goals have not yet been approved, McLaughlin noted they have been instrumental in developing the work plan for the FY2013 budget.

Referring to the Goals work-session held on Saturday, March 3, Jordan hoped the worksession report would be written up soon. McLaughlin promised it could be available by the end of April.

Visioning Goals

In the Budget document the Manager set forth eight visioning goals:

- Enhance Sense of Community
- [Support] Economic Development and Sustainability
- Improve Transportation Opportunities
- Maintain Greenbelt as an Environmentally Proactive Community
- Improve and Enhance Public Safety
- Preserve and Enhance Greenbelt's Legacy as a Planned Community
- Promote Quality of Life Programs for All Citizens
- [Develop] Relationships with Outside Agencies/Organizations

For each goal bulleted action items describe specific activities to further the goal.

General Fund Summary

Following review of the manager's budget introduction, council looked at the budget document itself reviewing of the 24-page General Fund Summary which discusses Sources of Revenues and a Summary of Changes to General Fund Expenditure Line Items.

In remarking on the proposed three percent increase in FY2013 of passes for the Aquatic & Fitness Center (the only fee increase

proposed), McLaughlin advised council that during FY2013 all class fees in the Recreation Department will be evaluated.

In regard to the city's red-light camera program, McLaughlin noted an expected \$30,000 increase in revenue in FY2013 for a total of \$225,000. This increase is based on the State Highway Administration construction at the Kenilworth Avenue bridge over the Beltway, expected to close next fall, with cameras in those locations going back into service.

On the expenditure side, it was noted that the city's CareFirst health insurance carrier predicts an expected 29 percent increase for FY2013. While efforts are being made to negotiate the proposed rate down, the staff is investigating other options, including the Maryland Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) cooperative.

The city already places its general insurance with LGIT, enjoying significant savings with general coverage.

The situation with the Injured Workers Insurance Fund (IWIF) is more troublesome, McLaughlin said, because of the city's bad experience with workplace injuries during the past several years, which caused IWIF coverage to increase from \$434,190 in FY2010 to \$1,268,500 in FY2012.

The latest estimate from IWIF

has a projected cost of \$1,050,000 for FY 2013.

McLaughlin said efforts are continuing to reduce

workplace injuries to further re-

duce IWIF premium costs.

Fuel costs

The last item in this section involved McLaughlin's crystal ball for the price of motor vehicle fuel in FY2013. While the city has a fuel cost advantage because of bulk purchases, approximately \$30 cents less per gallon than at local gas stations, the city still has to deal with the same spikes in gas prices. For FY2013, he estimates the average per gallon cost for motor fuel at \$3.45.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts chimed in at this point, noting how often he sees city vehicles parked and idling while a crew may be doing a job. He hesitated to suggest the formation of a vigilante group to address the issue but hoped the city would take some measures to discourage the practice.

When council arrived at the section dealing with General Government, Davis expressed pleasure with the array of pictures placed throughout the pages of the departmental budgets. She asked McLaughlin to convey thanks to Beverly Palau on the inclusion of the pictures, especially older pictures honoring the City's 75th Anniversary.

McLaughlin, a little red-faced, said pictures had been removed in the past because of increased costs in producing the budget document. He relented, however, when Palau was able to include the pictures and produce the pages in-house for less money.

Finance/Administration

Savings was a focus for the City Manager's Office and Finance and Administration functions within General Government. Leading off a section on Issues and Services for FY2013, the budget reflects that in each of the last three fiscal years (FY2010, 2011 and 2012), the city has experienced significant declines in revenue after the budgets had been adopted.

In FY2010, highway user revenue and Police Aid were slashed \$540,000 two months after the start of the fiscal year. In FY2011 and 2012, property taxes came in \$600,000 and \$350,000 lower than had been projected by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

Therefore, an emphasis in FY2013, he said, will be to monitor closely the city's revenue stream and expenses, while also looking for savings and efficiencies in city operations to reduce costs in future years.

For the Elections section of the proposed budget, council noted no funds had been budgeted for a possible referendum on the question of city acquisition or lease of a portion of the Greenbelt Middle School that is scheduled to close in September 2012. The manager said if such an action were needed, an election could be funded from reserve funds.

Under Administration, Davis questioned whether council might be making more requests of staff, especially since there are now seven members. If so, she suggested perhaps requests should come before council itself before a task is given to staff.

McLaughlin said he does not see such requests as a problem. He said recognition that running of the city is paramount. He has found the relationship between councilmembers and staff as healthy and would put a damper on those exchanges.

Professional Services

The Administration budget also contains a \$25,000 item under Professional Services for hiring a consultant in defining strategy and the role for economic development. In that context a question was raised regarding the city's relationship, if any, with the effort underway by Greenbelt residents to form an Economic Development Corporation (GDC).

There seemed to be a consensus however, that the city's effort is separate from the GDC effort. Davis said that at some point there may be a worksession with the GDC organizers.

Greenbelt's Information Technology (IT) Director, Dale Worley, provided council with a prepared five-year review of IT accomplishments. The budget over the past three years has been fairly stable at just under \$500,000, with about 80 percent for salaries and the balance for operating expenses.

According to the report, significant improvements have been made in computer practices throughout the city's network. Much of IT efforts have been directed to the Public Safety and Police systems, including a radio system upgrade, in-car systems for patrol officers, a Records and Field Reporting system for the Police Department and IT infrastructure and renovation of the Dispatch station at the Police Department.

Several of these projects have been accomplished as partnerships with the county, other municipalities and organizations and have served as templates for other organizations doing upgrades to their systems.

Other Greenbelt City departments have also benefited from the IT experience with implementation of, or upgrades to, their management/tracking systems.

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Gallery Concert Features Quartet

On Wednesday, April 11 at 12:10 p.m. the Jack String Quartet will play a free concert at the National Gallery of Art. They will perform music by Hosokawa and Ives in the East Building Auditorium.

National Gallery Offers Japanese Concert

The National Gallery of Art offers a free public concert on Friday, April 13 at 12:10 p.m. by flutist Yoko Owada playing "A Japanese Musical Meditation." The concert will be held in the West Building lecture hall.

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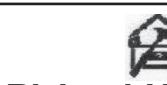
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SHL Students Celebrate Women's History Breakfast

by Kayla Faria

A barrage of pink and purple décor greeted invited guests recently at Springhill Lake Elementary School where they heard inspirational words from the mother of Len Bias, were dazzled by students' swing dance performance and astounded at the vice principal's singing voice.

The annual Women's History Breakfast celebrating girls' and women's empowerment through education featured motivational speaker Dr. Lonise Bias, who buried her second son, Jay, four years after burying Len, the Terrapin standout drafted by the Boston Celtics.

"The very thing that you think will kill you is the thing that will give you life," she said. "As females today, we stand on the shoulders of females that went through things a thousand times worse than we have and we are the evolution of who they were, so we have greatness within us."

Bias was asked to speak at the event because of her impact, particularly among youth, within the Prince George's community.

"Her [Lonise Bias'] voice is a voice to be reckoned with," said second-grade teacher Renee Anderson, who coordinated the celebration with art teacher Esther Williams and fifth-grade teacher Paulette Chung.

Although Bias was the special guest speaker and event's headliner, she made it clear the emphasis

was on the young girl students.

"They are our future, this nation's greatest natural resource," Bias said of the children, complimenting the flair of the second grader who stole the show by reading a poem. "She recited it like she was the sisterhood."

Standing on a chair to see over the podium, Alexis Thomas, 7, recited "The Measure of a Woman," with an eloquence and elegance far beyond her years.

"If we were to be measured as women, then let it be by the things we can control, the depth of our compassion, our thirst for knowledge and our tremendous grace and defiance because all the inches, ages and sizes are just like numbers," Thomas continued, "and numbers don't tell you anything honey!"

Councilmembers

More than 80 gathered for the event, including Mayor Judith Davis and councilmembers Leta Mach and Silke Pope, with many among the group following fourth- and fifth-grade student ushers into classrooms to read books to students after the breakfast.

Still, most of the action came during the event when fifth-grade students from Alight Dance Theater danced swing, and then gave speeches after their performance about what they hope to accomplish. Their desires included going to college, making the community a better place and becoming a doctor, dancer, singer, actress and even a cook.

"One of the women I admire



Alexis Thomas, age 7, stands on a chair to see over the podium.

most is my mom because she inspires me to cook," one student said, adding she hopes to study at a culinary college.

Many girls said if they could meet and speak to any woman in the world, they would choose First Lady Michelle Obama but one student-dancer, Anahi Aviles, chose Mayor Judith Davis.

"She is one of my favorite people in Greenbelt," said Aviles, who got her opportunity to meet and speak with Davis minutes after her speech. "Women's History Month is important because it is good to look back and see how women did things in the past."

"It reminds us that women struggled a lot in the past," another student said, "but now we know how important we are."

When asked if taking students



Lonise Bias tells the students "We females have greatness within us."

said at the event that also served to commemorate Verna Mae Taylor, 66, the ESOL teacher who had died on March 5. "I like sisterhood [it means] a lot of passion."

Students Involved

For students to be "involved" and "immersed in it," Anderson said, "was better than anything we could have told them, anything they could have read about [or] anything they might have seen on TV."

"Being a woman [is] how you are inside and outside," Anderson's student, Alexis Thomas,

said at the event that also served to commemorate Verna Mae Taylor, 66, the ESOL teacher who had died on March 5. "I like sisterhood [it means] a lot of passion."

A woman of different passions and interests, Vice Principal Dr. Ann Swann, sang for the crowd, demonstrating how her talents are not limited to the role of educator.

"The female is the life-giver, the pathfinder, the trailblazer and the educator," Bias said. "We are women of power. We are women of destiny."

Turner Visits GES 6th Graders

by Kayla Faria

Prince George's County Councilmember Ingrid Turner celebrated the uniqueness of Greenbelt Elementary School sixth graders by reading a six-line Langston Hughes' poem in two classes Monday as a part of the "Read 4 Success" program.

Through "Read 4 Success," Turner has visited District 4 elementary schools for almost five years, promoting literacy by engaging with and reading to students, primarily third and fourth graders, in hopes of cultivating a love for reading at an early age.

"I'm going to challenge you to continue to excel in school," the U.S. Naval Academy alumna told students as she handed out challenge coins, a military tradition, in Beth Novick's sixth grade classes.

Turner traditionally reads the books "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Frindle" to students in younger grades but Novick personally reached out to Turner in October, requesting she visit her class and read Langston Hughes' "My People," because the class was studying poetry.

"She talked to a teacher to find out what her needs were and then she, you know, actually delivers," said Principal Monica Gaines, also referencing the SMART Board that Turner bought for the school earlier this year.

As part of the program, students received their own copy of the book "My People" that has been purchased by Turner through a program grant, according to Gaines.

A "study in simplicity," the 33-word poem, embraces difference, prompting Turner to ask students: "What makes you unique?"

One student, Victoria, used the microphone to proudly read her eloquent poem, "Being an Older Sister," while others talked about their creative passions in literature, athletics and the arts and takeaways from the Hughes poem.

"I learned from [the poem] that we should all take each other as we are and not for our skin color," said an insightful student named Jonathan.

African American History

A few sixth graders connected books they were reading with African American history, shifting into a discussion on voting freedoms and levels of government.

When students are able to see a political figure in their community that represents them in government, it reinforces that what they are doing is important, the principal said.

"It helps kids to make connections and be able to see," said Gaines. "This is something that's attainable."

"Reading is the foundation for everything," Turner emphasized.



County Councilmember Ingrid Turner encouraged young poets to share their work.

"I want to encourage people to read because it's the key to being successful."

Turner noted the community in Greenbelt is what puts these children in position to be successful.

"What is so special about Greenbelt is," continued Turner, "they have a community here. The parents are engaged; the guardians are engaged."

Gaines agreed that reading at home is essential for reinforcement and a consistent message that resonates with students.

"We definitely can't do it on our own, you know; we need parents – parental support," Gaines said.

For Turner, reading and education is a network and a partnership.

"That's why I love coming to Greenbelt, because they welcome partnerships, because they know it takes a village," Turner said.

"Run of the Mill" Talk On Maryland's Mills

On April 12 at 7 p.m. Dr. James Gibbs will give a free lecture on how mills, driven by water through rough wooden gears and wide leather belts, fed Marylanders from the middle of the 18th century to the turn of the 20th. They supported Baltimore's successful bid for industrial prominence in the Mid-Atlantic and they linked the entire state to international markets. Laurel Factory was one of those mills. Discover how archaeological investigations have revealed differences in technology among the state's mills.

Gibbs is an archaeologist with extensive field research experience, numerous publications and is an adjunct professor at Stevenson University Department of History. He conducted the archaeological survey of the Laurel Museum building in addition to his recent work on Port Tobacco and Maryland Mills.

The lecture will be at the Laurel Pool Room, 9th and Main Street, adjacent to the museum, which will be open from 6 to 6:55 p.m.

Otter's Tale for Tots At Patuxent Refuge

On Thursday, April 12 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 2 p.m. there will be a Nature Tots program for ages 3 and 4 at the Patuxent Refuge's National Wildlife Visitor Center. Otter's Tale will introduce preschoolers to the "otterific" and watery world of otters through stories, games and a craft.

The Visitor Center is located off Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Rt. 197.

Bike to Work Day Registration Open

Friday, May 18 is Bike to Work Day 2012, when workers are urged by Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association to leave their cars behind for this annual event. Meant to promote bicycling as a fun, healthy, environmentally friendly and low-cost alternative to drive-alone commuting, the event drew 11,000 participants last year and is expected to break attendance records again this year.

A new Greenbelt pit stop has been added this year which will be open from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. in front of the pool, where refreshments, V.I.P. greeters, gifts and raffle prizes will be available. In addition, a Greenbelt convoy to downtown Washington, D.C., leaves Roosevelt Center at 6:30 a.m. The Greenbelt convoy leader will be George Branyan (George.Branyan@dc.gov).

Registration and other information is now available at <http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/register-now/>. The first 11,000 registrants will receive a free t-shirt.

Early Morning Bowie Bird Walk Saturday

Meet at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 7 at the parking lot of the Fran Uhler Natural Area at Lemon Bridge Road just north of Bowie State University for a free Audubon Society monthly bird walk which is held on the first Saturday year-round. Beginners and experts may see resident and migrating woodland and field birds and waterfowl. There is also a chance to bird the nearby WB&A trail after the Uhler bird walk.

Call 410-765-6482 for more information.

PHOTOS BY KAYLA FARIA